

Y4 Welcome Letter

Monday 5th September 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 4! We are very much looking forward to teaching your children and we are working hard to ensure that we have an exciting year in store for them!

At Sitwell Junior School, our aim is to promote a love of learning by providing rich, rewarding experiences through a creative curriculum. Through celebrating efforts and achievements, we aim to develop pride in the success of our pupils so that they are ready to face future challenges.

This letter is designed to give you an insight into the learning experience we will be providing for your child during their time in Year 4. We value our effective communication and strong links between staff, parents and children. Together, we can make a difference!

The Curriculum at Sitwell Junior School gives children opportunities to learn, build on, and develop new skills. Children are exposed to a range of subjects and activities that allow them to experience different topics and learning styles encompassing the Sitwell 7 Values.

Our Year 4 Topics

Autumn Term – **Invasion**

Spring Term - **Road Trip to Europe**

Summer Term - **Land of Hope and Glory**

To encourage a love of reading, we are going to study at least one key book per term, linked to the current topic. In Year 4 the books will be:

Invasion – **Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo**

Road Trip to Europe - **The Storm Keeper's Island by Catherine Doyle**

Land of Hope and Glory– **The Railway Children by E. Nesbit**

It would be greatly appreciated by the school if, wherever possible, you could supply your child with a copy of the above-mentioned books, perhaps as a birthday, EID or Christmas present, as learning will be

closely linked to this. However, if not, please do not worry as your child will still be able to access these books in school.

We have chosen these topics as they will allow the children to take part in creative activities during the year. For most of our topics, we plan to take children out on a day trip. These visits will further develop children's understanding of each topic and will help to fully immerse them in their learning. If for any reason we cannot attend the visits outlined, we will look to host some engage days in school.

Invasion

This topic teaches children about life in Britain after the Roman withdrawal. Children will learn about Anglo-Saxon and Viking invasions up to the Norman conquest. To engage the children in this topic, we plan to visit the Royal Armouries in Leeds to take part in the 'Saxon Sagas' workshop.

In addition to the above, we also plan to visit the Lyceum Theatre on Friday 14th October. Whilst there, we will get the chance to listen to Michael Rosen read some of his most famous poems and hear him share some hints and tips with the children.

Road Trip to Europe

This geography based topic will take children across Europe, developing their map reading skills and learning about the different landscapes and landmarks along the way. To engage the children, we will be holding an exciting day in school: tasting some delicious European food, studying the flags of Europe and learning some popular European phrases.

Land of Hope and Glory

For this topic, we will learn all about our country. From studying England's physical and human features to finding out more about our industrial past, the children will become experts in all things Britain! To engage the children, we will take part in a St George's Day celebration, eating, drinking and taking part in all things English.

Further, we are planning on taking the children on an exciting overnight stay to Gulliver's theme park! Whilst there, we will take part in some fantastic activities such as shelter building and wall climbing as well as experiencing the thrill of the rides!

Our Home Learning Schedule

Times Tables Practice

In Y4, all children are expected to recall the multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables to 12 x 12. This means that they need to practise counting in multiples and have a rapid recall of any of the above multiplication facts. At home, this can be supported by the use of the children's online Times Tables Rock Stars account. In June, children will take part in the Government led times table check. More details to follow in the new year.

Reading

At Sitwell Junior School, we aim to encourage children to acquire a love of reading. Part of this requires the children to be able to read fluently, so it is really important that you listen to your child read every day. This only needs to be for a short time each day, as little and often is the best approach when supporting your child with their reading. Your child will be asked to choose a book from the reading spine as their book to take home.

This year, we will continue using Marvellous Me as a way of recording your child's reading at home. Through the app, you will be able to access a link to a form that should be submitted weekly before Friday morning. If you are yet to sign up to Marvellous me, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

In addition to this, your child should have login details to Reading Eggs, a computer based programme which is tailored to your child's reading ability. The site has a wealth of reading texts and questions for your child to work through. As well as accessing this in class, they will be able to do so at home, providing you with further insight into your child's reading ability. If your child has forgotten their log in details, their class teacher can access these for them.

If your child is finding the text difficult to read, or they are struggling to remain on task when reading, it is a good idea to 'take it in turns' for example by you reading a page, your child reading a page, and so on. Children learn a lot from listening to adults reading too. After your child has read a short section, it is helpful for you to ask them some questions to check their understanding of what they have read. For example: what did Jack do when the door opened? How do you think he felt at that moment? Which word tells you he felt that way? What do you think might happen next? **Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book in school every day.**

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 4 and projects are published half termly. We believe these projects will give our children the opportunity to share their learning with family at home, engage them in our current topic and allow them to share their knowledge, skills and talents with their peers. Children will come home with a list of ideas for a Project from their class teacher for you to help with, or you can come up with an idea of your own linked to the half term's topic.

PE and Swimming

The Year 4 children will have two sessions of PE every week. Weather permitting, one will be outdoor and one indoor all year round. We ask that all children come to school in their P.E. kit on the days that they have P.E. Year 4 will have P.E. on the following days:

4WN - Tuesday and Thursday

4RE - Tuesday and Thursday

4BP - Tuesday and Friday

PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor).

Swimming sessions will begin towards the end of March and will last for 12 weeks. We will provide more details nearer the time.

We hope this information will enable you to support your child in their learning activities throughout the school year. We do hope that you will be able to offer your support to school in our endeavour to offer broad educational experiences to our children.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs O. Nixon Mrs J. Winters Miss R.Evans Miss B.Pickwell

(The Year 4 Team)